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INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 000263

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DEPT FOR AF/FO, AF/RSA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/26/2012

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [AU](#)

SUBJECT: USAU SUPPORT FOR AMISON DEPLOYMENT

Classified By: AMBASSADOR CINDY L. COURVILLE, REASONS: 1.4(b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Background: The US Mission to the AU is in constant contact with: Peace and Security Commissioner Djinnit and the Director of Peace Support Operations Bereng Mtimkulu. As a result of six weeks of quiet diplomacy to AU planners, a dialogue and relationship has been established.

(C) It is USAU,s proposal that we leverage and improve that relationship. We must build capacity and institutionalize lessons learned from this Somalia experience while at the same time getting the forces into Somalia.

¶2. (C) Lessons Learned:

Note current and historical sensitivity to U.S. in your face approach

Stress the need to understand and accommodate

Lessons learned from Darfur process in which US planners were sent to help and can-do approach and conduct were perceived as &big brother8 and turned a potential partnership into a no show.

¶3. (C) AU Concerns:

AU has the AMISOM mission

Great sensitivity in being perceived as a &puppet8 to the US Ethiopia is currently fighting that perception in Somalia

AU desires is planning and executing that mission

US footprint in the AU must be low-key partner

Continued U.S. air strikes on Somalia are eroding potential TCCs willingness to support the mission

¶4. (C) Djinnit Way Forward:

AU Partners confirm by January 29, 2007 their pledges to provide technical, financial

and logistical support for AMISOM

Troop Contributing Countries and AU Partners will meet to review and agree upon a

&coordinated and predictable package of support8

Deployment of 2 Ugandan battalions and 1 Nigerian battalion

Uganda provide the force commander for the mission

Request for Algerian airlift of Ugandan forces or U.S.

airlift of Ugandan forces

Financial Support from African countries who cannot provide troops

TCCs must provide planners to support the mission

¶5. (C) Imminent deployment of the Ugandan battalion to AMISOM:

The US logistics team is currently in Uganda is assisting and coordinating with the Ugandan army leadership.

The US team expressed concern that the Ugandan,s are - asking the right questions8

and that there exist considerable potential for delays and confusion on the ground in Somalia.

It was proposed at this conference call to reach back and get U.S. planner expertise to supplement and help the AU and by extension the Ugandans.

16. (C) USG Recommended Next Steps:

Propose an arms length mentoring and coaching strategy so the AU can save face

Issue Note Verbale indicating support for AMISON

Locate with U.S. planner resources in Addis, Abuja and Kampala

Planners will coordinate and provide shadow planning team to the AU

The team would liaise with the AU planning cell through the USAU

Work quietly with the head of the AU planners, who has no planning or military experience and no military staff

Support AU planners through USAU Military Liaisons and in country US shadow planning team

Assist the AU planners on the right types of questions to ask, how to schedule

logistics, and establish required planning cell etc.

Encourage AU to request that TCCs send planners to Addis immediately

Below are 2 notes verbale on AMISON deployment:

YAMAMOTO